

ANNE-MARIE, THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION.

IT IS MORE THAN FITTING THAT MY DEAR FRIEND, CO-AUTHOR, AND COLLABORATOR, ANNE-MARIE SLAUGHTER, IS HERE TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE.

IT WAS MORT HALPERIN, ONE FORMER DIRECTOR OF POLICY PLANNING, WHO IS HERE TODAY, WHO INTRODUCED ME TO ANNE-MARIE, THE CURRENT POLICY PLANNING DIRECTOR.

AND IT WAS LES GELB, THEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, WHO SUGGESTED SOME TEN YEARS AGO THAT ANNE-MARIE AND I COLLABORATE ON A PROJECT CALLED, "OLD RULES, NEW THREATS."

AND HERE WE ARE TODAY.

I AM DEEPLY HONORED BY THE CONFIDENCE THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY CLINTON HAVE SHOWN BY APPOINTING ME TO THE IMPORTANT POST OF AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND.

IT IS SWEET AND POIGNANT TO SEE AND SAY GOOD BYE FOR A WHILE TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS FROM SO MANY PARTS OF MY LIFE, FROM ACROSS THE ATLANTIC TO ACROSS THE POTOMAC; FROM THINK TANKS TO CAMPAIGNS, FROM MY HOME TOWN TO MY ADOPTED HOME OF WASHINGTON.

A SECRETARY OF STATE, WHO IS ON TRAVEL, AS YOU KNOW, FAMOUSLY WROTE A BOOK, "IT TAKES A VILLAGE." AND, AS THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM CAN ATTEST FROM THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES, IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO FORGE A CAREER. AND THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE THAT POSSIBLE. I WILL MENTION ONLY A FEW.

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT AND SANDY BERGER, – OUR FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, WHO IS HERE TODAY. I WILL NEVER FORGET OUR EVENING CONVERSATION WHEN HE SAID IN URGING ME TO TAKE THE PLUNGE INTO POLITICS – AND I WILL EDIT HIS COMMENTS FOR THIS AUDIENCE -- "THERE'S MORE TO THE WORLD THAN THE, HMM, COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS."

RICHARD HAASS, LES GELB, AND STROBE TALBOTT ALL OF WHOM GAVE ME AN INSTITUTIONAL HOME AND INTELLECTUAL BASE FROM WHICH I WAS ABLE TO PREPARE FOR A RETURN TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE. I THANK THEM FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT, AS WELL AS JAMES LINDSAY, MARTIN INDYK, BILL ANTHOLIS, AND CARLOS PASCUAL.

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, BRIAN MCKEON, SETS THE STANDARD FOR DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE, INTEGRITY AND COMPETENCE. HE IS AS DEVOTED TO HIS WORK AS HE IS TO HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY. IT IS A MODEL WE ALL ASPIRE TO. THERE ARE MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE HELPED ME REACH THIS DAY. I WISH I HAD TIME TO SINGLE THEM ALL OUT.

THERE ARE MANY FORMER AND CURRENT COLLEAGUES HERE, AND I OWE THEM ALL A GREAT INTELLECTUAL DEBT AND AM GRATIFIED BY THEIR PRESENCE AND SUPPORT. MANY OF THEM GOT PHONE CALLS AT ALL HOURS OF THE DAY AND NIGHT.

I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY FRIEND AND COAUTHOR TOD LINDBERG OF THE HOOVER INSTITUTION. OUR COLLABORATION BEGAN IN A SHOTGUN MARRIAGE ARRANGED BY NEWT GINGRICH AND GEORGE MITCHELL. IT'S BEEN AN IMMENSELY REWARDING AND THERE ARE MANY IN THIS ROOM WHO HAVE BEEN PART OF OUR CROSS-IDEOLOGICAL [IN WASHINGTON WE CALL THAT NONPARTISAN] COALITION TO BUILD STRONG TIES WITH OUR MOST IMPORTANT ALLIES, OUR FELLOW ATLANTIC DEMOCRACIES; AND TO HELP FORGE A FOREIGN POLICY THAT SPEAKS TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR NATION.

AS VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN SAID WHEN HE WAS IN WARSAW TWO WEEKS AGO, POLAND A LONG TIME AGO CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

MANY OF US KNOW POLAND THROUGH OUR POLISH-AMERICAN NEIGHBORS—A POWERFUL DIASPORA THAT HAS HELPED SHAPE AMERICAN CULTURE AND FORGE AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

LIKE MANY AMERICANS, I KNOW POLAND THROUGH MY FAMILY. MY FATHER'S PARENTS WERE BORN IN A VILLAGE THAT WAS PART

OF THE POLISH-LITHUANIAN COMMONWEALTH, NOW IN PRESENT DAY UKRAINE.

BUT REGARDLESS OF OUR FAMILY TIES, AMERICANS ARE DRAWN TO THE STORY OF POLAND, A COUNTRY THAT HAS ENDURED GREAT HARDSHIP AND TRAGEDY IN ITS HISTORY.

IT HAS BEEN OCCUPIED AND DISMEMBERED BY FOREIGN POWERS TIME AND AGAIN.

IT EXPERIENCED A BRIEF PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE AFTER WORLD WAR I, BUT THEN FELL PREY TO NAZI INVASION AND OCCUPATION, DURING WHICH SIX MILLION POLISH CITIZENS LOST THEIR LIVES. THEN, FOLLOWING THE WAR, THE SOVIET REGIME DEPRIVED POLES OF THEIR POLITICAL LIBERTY AND IMPOSED AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT KEPT THE COUNTRY IN POVERTY AND SUBJUGATION.

YET WHAT DRAWS US AS AMERICANS TO THE POLISH STORY IS NOT THE TRAGEDY OF ITS HISTORY, BUT WHAT THE POLISH PEOPLE DID IN RESPONSE TO THESE HARDSHIPS.

THEY NOT ONLY ENDURED, BUT IN THE FACE OF THESE HARSH REALITIES, THE POLES RALLIED THEMSELVES IN A MASS MOVEMENT, AND THREW OFF COMMUNIST RULE, CREATING A CHAIN REACTION THAT LED TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE COMMUNIST SYSTEM IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

THE COURAGE AND MORAL FORCE OF THIS MOVEMENT HAD RIPPLE EFFECTS AROUND THE WORLD. AND IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT POLAND PLAYED A KEY ROLE BOTH IN ENDING THE COLD WAR AND IN CREATING THE MORE DEMOCRATIC WORLD IN WHICH WE NOW LIVE.

TODAY POLAND CONTINUES TO PROSPER, AND SERVES AS A BRILLIANT EXAMPLE TO OTHERS. POLAND HAS DRAWN ON ITS EXPERIENCE, AND IS STRIVING TO SHARE IT BOTH IN ITS NEIGHBORHOOD AND AROUND THE WORLD.

FIVE YEARS AFTER JOINING THE EUROPEAN UNION, POLAND IS A LEADER IN THAT COMMUNITY. TOGETHER WITH SWEDEN, POLAND SUCCESSFULLY PRESSED FOR THE CREATION OF AN EU EASTERN

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE PROSPERITY AND RULE OF LAW IN EUROPE'S EAST.

EVEN BEFORE JOINING THE EU, POLAND WAS CO-CONVENER AND HOST OF THE FIRST MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES IN WARSAW IN 2000.

I WAS GRATIFIED TO TAKE PART IN THAT MEETING WITH SECRETARY ALBRIGHT, AND I LOOK FORWARD AS AMBASSADOR TO CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH POLAND, WHICH IS NOW THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES. THERE IS MUCH THE UNITED STATES AND POLAND CAN DO TOGETHER ON DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW. I AM EXCITED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE TO DEVELOP OUR PARTNERSHIP.

WORKING WITH POLAND AS PARTNERS COMES NATURALLY FOR AMERICANS BECAUSE WE SHARE VALUES AND IDEALS. WE HAVE STOOD SHOULDER TO SHOULDER IN COMBAT.

TODAY WE ARE BOUND TOGETHER MORE TIGHTLY THAN EVER THROUGH OUR MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. THROUGH ARTICLE V OF THE WASHINGTON TREATY, THE UNITED STATES AND POLAND ARE COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER'S SECURITY. AN ATTACK ON ONE IS AN ATTACK ON ALL. AS PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS SAID, "THIS IS THE ENDURING PROMISE OF OUR ALLIANCE," AND IT IS A PROMISE FOR OUR TIME AND ALL TIMES.

SECURITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY GOES BEYOND MILITARY POWER AS SECRETARY CLINTON HAS SO ELOQUENTLY STATED.

POLAND AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE ENTIRE GLOBE, LIKE ENERGY SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, AND PROMOTING PROSPERITY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE POLISH GOVERNMENT ON THESE CHALLENGES, AND PLEDGE TO CONTINUE TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO ACCELERATE POLAND'S DEVELOPMENT AS OUR REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY ALLY AND PARTNER.

POLAND IS AND HAS BEEN ONE OF OUR TRUEST FRIENDS AND MOST LOYAL ALLIES. AS AMBASSADOR MY MAIN MISSION WILL BE TO FORTIFY OUR ALLIANCE FOR THE NEW CENTURY.

WE LIVE IN AN ERA OF PRESSING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES, BUT NONE MORE IMPORTANT THAN BUILDING OUR ALLIANES FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY. AS AMBASSADOR I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO BROADEN AND DEEPEN OUR GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT COOPERATION. I WILL MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO REACH OUT TO POLAND'S YOUNGER GENERATIONS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE HISTORICALLY STRONG TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES CONTINUE. THROUGH SUCH RENEWED EFFORTS, I AM CERTAIN THAT THE ENDURING NARRATIVE OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES' STRONG BONDS OF AFFECTION WILL DEFINE OUR PERCEPTION OF ONE ANOTHER, AND GUIDE OUR WAY FORWARD.

THESE ARE TALL ORDERS, AND I DO NOT TAKE MY RESPONSIBILITIES IN HELPING TO BRING THEM ABOUT LIGHTLY. LUCKILY, I WILL NOT BE ALONE IN WARSAW. I WILL HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE GREAT STAFF AT THE EMBASSY AND HERE IN THE EUROPEAN DIVISION, BEGINNING WITH OUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY, PHIL GORDON, OUR PRINCIPAL DEPUTY NANCY MCELDOWNEY, OUR OTHER OUTSTANDING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND, OF COURSE, PAMELA QUANRUD, JUST RETURNED FROM POLAND.

AND OF COURSE I'LL HAVE MY FAMILY.

I AM SO PROUD TO HAVE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS HERE WITH THEIR FAMILIES. I AM SO PRODU OF ALL OF THEM AND THEIR ACHEIVMENTS. ALL OF US ARE CONTINUALLY AMAZED BY OUR AUNT, MY FATHERS' SISTER, WHO IS HER TODAY AND WHOSE PARENTS LEFT POLAND FOR THE UNITED STATES IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE LAST CENTURY.

MARGOT MONAGHAN, KNOWN TO HER GRANDCHILDREN ONLY AS MARGOT, HAS SPENT AS MUCH TIME ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC IN THE PAST FEW YEARS AS SHE HAS IN HER HOME OF EDINBURGH. I KNOW SHE IS PRETTY EAGER TO GET HOME. NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN DOABLE WITHOUT HER.

JACK AND CARA, WE ARE SO IMPRESSED BY THE TWO OF YOU. YOU ARE CURIOUS, POSITIVE, FUN-LOVING AND FLEXIBLE. WE ARE BLESSED TO SHARE THIS ADVENTURE WITH YOU. WE CAN'T WAIT TO READ STORIES IN JACK'S NEW BUNK BED AND IN CARA'S NEW BED WITH THE TWO KITTIES.

ELAINE MONAGHAN, MY WIFE AND LIFE PARTNER, IS NO STRANGER TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. SHE IS KNOWN TO MOST OF YOU NOT THROUGH ME BUT THROUGH HER OWN INTREPID REPORTING IN THE FORMER SOVIET BLOC, KOSOVO, AND HERE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHERE SHE COVERED AND TRAVELED WITH TWO SECRETARIES OF STATE. AT EVERY TURN, ELAINE HAS SUPPORTED ME AND OUR FAMILY. AND WE LOVE HER FOR THAT AND MANY OTHER THINGS.

THANK ALL OF YOU FOR COMING. AND WE'LL SEE YOU IN WARSAW.